AUS holds Annual Student Appreciation Awards

American University of Sharjah (AUS) honored more than 600 students for their extracurricular achievements during the Annual Student Appreciation Award ceremony, held May 18, 2015. Students from the AUS Student Council, sports teams, student clubs and organizations, community services volunteers, and the leadership program were recognized and honored at the Jawaher Reception and Convention Center, Sharjah.

The Annual Student Appreciation Awards honor students’ activities outside the classrooms and promotes their success by recognizing their achievements and encouraging them to explore their interests.

Speaking at the ceremony were Dr. Björn Kjerfve, AUS Chancellor, and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

“AUS has gained a well-earned reputation throughout the region for its academic excellence. But your contributions outside the classroom-on campus and beyond-as athletes, student volunteers, university leaders and ambassadors have played a significant role in enhancing the standing of our university,” said Chancellor Kjerfve.

Dr. Al Shehhi expressed her pride in the students’ participation in events and activities provided by the AUS Office of Student Affairs and added, “Student life...”

AUS athletes victorious at Med-Saharan Sports Challenge in Morocco

Six sports teams with a total of 61 student athletes from AUS competed in the second Med-Saharan Sports Challenge at Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane in Morocco, April 16-19, 2015, against talented athletes from five different countries. The AUS women's teams placed first in basketball, volleyball and swimming.

The AUS swimmers bagged four gold, two silver and four bronze medals, which includes double gold medals each for Cyndi Faber and Angelina Demirbagh with a double silver medal tally for Danya Khafaga. Razan Al Khamis and Rawan Salah shared two bronze medals each in free style and breast stroke races respectively.
Dean of Students’ Column
Trail of Success

Congratulations to the AUS graduates of Spring 2015. Our heartiest congratulations go to Eiman Elghanam, winner of President’s Cup, and Moataz Abdrabou, winner of Chancellor’s Cup. We are proud of their academic and extracurricular achievements, and for setting an exemplary record for AUS students. Both the awardees made a remarkable contribution to student life either through community services, the leadership program, athletics or student activities. Among the Spring 2015 graduates were hundreds of active students in different extracurricular areas that began as freshmen and continued to participate, develop and lead until they graduated. Their extracurricular portfolios and success stories will surely encourage current AUS students to make an impression on student life.

Success at university is not only about academics—it goes hand in hand with out-of-class extracurricular participation as it builds your personality, fortifies your skills and improves your interpersonal and communication skills. Activities also offer recreational avenues to de-stress. Academic excellence is essential for university students but so is personal well-being and development.

I encourage students to engage in Student Affairs’ opportunities for participation. Summer has a lot of surprises for student life engagement. I wish all the best to our graduates for a better future, and a warm welcome to the summer enrollees.

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Ramadan.

AUS holds Student Council Reunion and Appreciation Day

American University of Sharjah (AUS) held its Student Council Reunion and Appreciation Day at the Student Center on May 22, to bring together all the former contributors to the AUS Student Council and to congratulate them on their efforts.

The reunion, organized by the Office of Student Affairs, saw over 230 students gather together including members of previous Student Councils and ethnic and interest-oriented clubs that collaborated with Student Councils throughout the years. The event celebrated student achievements in playing an important part in the university’s development and progress and congratulated them on their present success.

Attendees included Kevin Mitchell, AUS Interim Provost; Dr. Olin Cleve McDaniel, Chief Operating Officer; Stephen James Fenn, Executive Director of Operations; Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; and other AUS senior officials, along with former AUS students.

Mohammad Khamis, former AUS president of the 2006-2007 Student Council, commented on the event and said, “Being part of AUS Student Council helped me become more open to ideas and contributed to the success of my current career. I am pleased to have the chance to meet again with all the students who strive to make a difference.” The former AUS Student Council members were also presented with tokens of appreciation.
Students of American University of Sharjah (AUS) elected 14 new members to the university's Student Council during voting held May 20, at the Student Center. Elected to the office of Student Council President was Mohammad Ahmad Alhashimi, a sophomore in mechanical engineering.

The Student Council serves a voice for the student body and works directly with the university administration. It aims to initiate programs and projects that cater to the demands of the student body as well as promote leadership and teamwork. The elected candidates represent the university's diverse and multicultural student body.

The voting followed week-long electoral activities in which candidates canvassed for votes. Taha Bin Imam, elected as Treasurer of the Executive Board, talked about his team's campaign strategy. "We had a very strong campaign and we made ourselves very visible to the student body. We hosted a breakfast and lunch so that students could interact with us and get to know who we are and the values we stand for."

According to Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, “As student affairs administrators, it is our responsibility to create opportunities that complement formal learning and promote students' personal and professional growth. We strive to promote these opportunities among our students for them to gain the requisite skills and knowledge to become effective leaders of tomorrow. The Student Council is one of these opportunities where our students hone their skills in leadership, communications, negotiation and many other areas. Student Council serves as the collective voice of the student body to convey all student-related concerns to the administration."

The 14 students elected to the Student Council for 2015-2016 are:

**Executive Board**
- Mohammad Ahmad Alhashimi President
- Mustapha Ezzeddine Vice President
- Arpi Hagop Barbarian Vice President for Public Relations
- Alanood Afifi Dabbour Executive Secretary and Office Director
- Taha Bin Imam Treasurer

**Community Outreach Committee**
- Reem Salem AlNuaimi Events and Activities Coordinator
- Mohamed Mahmoud Elsayed Athletics and Sports Coordinator
- Farah Majed Hamzeh Communication and Media Coordinator
- George Victor Marachli Student Organizations and Campus Services Coordinator

**Board of Colleges, Schools and Academic Programs Representatives**
- Rachel Leigh Mansour College of Arts and Sciences Representative
- Mohamed Jamal Alrekhaimi College of Architecture, Art and Design Representative
- Alreem Khalid Alshamsi School of Business Administration Representative
- Loay Farhat College of Engineering Representative
- Tala Sa’di Abu Salim Achievement Academy Bridge Program Representative

The Student Council election was organized by the Student Development and Organizations Department of the AUS Office of Student Affairs.
Student clubs elect new leaders

American University of Sharjah (AUS) students convened at the Student Center to take part in the student club elections held on May 7 to elect club officers for Academic Year 2015-2016. Excited students queued to cast their votes while the candidates waited in anticipation for the election results to be announced later that evening.

Sherif El Kobrsky, the President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), stated, “I feel great because we put a lot of effort into the elections. I want to make the American Society of Civil Engineers move forward. My aim is to bring practicality into and raise awareness about this club.”

The elections were organized by the Office of Student Affairs and presided over by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students at AUS, and Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations Department.

“I would like to congratulate all the newly elected ethnic and interest-oriented club board members of 2015-2016,” said Dr. Al Shehhi. “Special thanks to our students for their efforts during the nominations, campaigns and elections and special acknowledgement to the staff for an orderly event. I would like to wish the student clubs and organizations a productive year ahead.”

AUS students volunteer in Food for the Needy campaign

American University of Sharjah student volunteers collected monetary and food donations from fellow students and AUS community members and purchased commodities such as rice, tea and sugar to fill over 500 bags that were then distributed to the needy. Thirty-one student volunteers visited Sharjah Charity International to distribute the food packets.

This was part of the annual Food for the Needy campaign held March 16 by AUS Community Services’ program as part of its efforts to help the community.

“Through this initiative, we aspire to instill in our students the value of giving and sharing with the less privileged members of the society,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “We wish to extend our appreciation to the AUS community for generously contributing to this humanitarian effort. Special thanks to our student volunteers for actively supporting this initiative, from fund raising to the distribution of food to needy families under the care of Sharjah International Charity,” she added.
AUS hosts 23 governmental and private organizations at Awareness Day

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), AUS held its annual Awareness Day on April 27 to raise the public’s awareness regarding issues of health, social, environmental and safety concerns. The event was opened by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor of AUS.

Twenty-three governmental and private organizations participated in the event, which was organized by the Community Services Division of the Office of Student Affairs and attended by members of the AUS community, students from schools across the UAE, and the public.

“As part of our community engagement initiatives, we bring on campus prominent government and private organizations from various sectors of the community to reach out to more students and promote awareness about health, social, environmental and safety issues. It is the aim of the Community Services Division to boost student involvement in community work so that students learn, benefit and participate in volunteering activities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

“The event serves as a platform to showcase to our students the various volunteering opportunities available to them and empower them with the requisite skills and values that will aid in their growth and development as responsible citizens of the society,” she added.

With booths and banners set up at the university’s Student Center, the participating organizations educated attendees about issues ranging from health issues, such as the effects of smoking and driving safety, to volunteering opportunities for those interested in giving back to the community.

Commenting on his department’s participation, Customer Service Agent Salim Badir Jany said, “We want to educate students about the various services and procedures the Sharjah Economic Development Department offers. We are here to..."
AUS community extends help to Nepal earthquake survivors

Members of the American University of Sharjah (AUS) community joined hands in raising funds for the survivors of the devastating earthquake in Nepal that caused widespread destruction in Kathmandu and the surrounding region. The campaign, held from May 12 to 18 on campus, was aimed at providing for the immediate needs of affected families, such as food, water and shelter.

“The Nepal Earthquake Relief Campaign is our response to support the worldwide effort of providing immediate relief to those affected by this natural catastrophe. I thank the AUS community for its generous contributions and to our student volunteers for their efforts in making this campaign a successful one,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The campaign was organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services Division in collaboration with Emirates Red Crescent. All proceeds were handed over to Emirates Red Crescent.
Student Residential Life round-up for late spring and early summer

Farewell ceremonies for graduating students were held on April 21 and 28 in the women and men’s dorms, respectively.

The event in the women’s dorms was attended by some 100 students, 40 of whom were graduating, while some 80 male graduates supported by a similar number of non-graduates were part of the ceremony in the men’s dorms.

Both ceremonies were well organized with distinct festive settings and packed programs featuring processions of the graduating students, polished Quran recitations, inspiring speeches by graduating student and Student Residential Life Department (SRLD) representatives. These were followed by thrilling entertainment with notable activities including body popping dance, Spanish guitar play, beat boxing, harmonica and creative rap performances, and an old-school rock band, among other items.

Also spotlighted on both occasions was the Ideal Resident Award – a certificate and a prize presented in recognition of exemplary behavior in residential life.

The two functions served as a fitting closure to the 2015 spring semester allowing attention to be shifted towards preparations for the upcoming summer term, which have proceeded smoothly.

SRLD management has made provision for six dorms to remain open during the summer term to house a total of 993 registered students (430 women and 563 men). These are the men’s dorms AB, CD, EF and GH, and women’s dorms CD and EF.

In the closed dorms, scheduled preventive maintenance will be undertaken in summer, as well as interior paint and touch-up work.
Forty students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) spent their spring break learning about South Korea firsthand during a trip to Seoul April 3-10, 2015.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ (OSA) Student Multicultural Learning Program, the tour included visits to various cultural sites, including the main and largest palace where the students witnessed a royal guard changing ceremony. They also visited N Seoul Tower, one of the country’s famous landmarks and the highest observation point in Seoul; Myeongdong in the center of the city; and Songdo with its Canal Walk Shopping Street and Presidential House Road. Other stops included Insadong Antique Alley, a uniquely constructed area for Korean antiques and artworks; Dongdaemun traditional market place; and the Korean Folk Village, which showcases the customs of the past generations through carefully preserved pottery, musical instruments, embroidery, and bamboo and wooden ware.

With South Korea being famous for K-pop, the students made sure they didn’t miss out on the hologram musical show School of OZ. They also thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Lotte World, the world’s largest indoor theme park, and Everland, an outdoor park famed for its night parades and laser shows. The students also attended a Nanta performance, the famous Korean nonverbal comedy cooking show. The trip concluded with a breathtaking dinner cruise across Han River.

“International cultural tours provide our students with a rich first-hand experience wherein they gain practical knowledge, skills and experiences that augment their understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi,
Dean of Students. “It is quite impressive to witness how popular the Student Multicultural Learning Program has become and the high satisfaction rating we receive from participating students.”

“I would like to thank OSA for the hard work they did did to make this trip a success,” said Aaliah Al Aifan, a senior management student. “It was such an incredible trip with the most amazing people. I felt like we were one big family. I learned a lot about South Korea and its culture, and had so much fun at the same time. I encourage students to get involved with OSA because these are the things we will always remember.” Accompanying the students were Dr. Al Shehhi; Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; and other OSA supervisors.

Student Leadership Program conducts successful DISC Analysis Workshop

Twenty students attended the DISC analysis workshop conducted by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program on May 4, 2015 as a part of the Student Training and Workshop Series. The widely used DISC Behavioral Style Model focuses on understanding, communicating and appreciating the four primary behavioral styles.

“Honestly speaking, I never thought I would learn the skill of understanding other personalities. I was even more amazed to find out my own personality type. It was truly a helpful experience,” said Khaled Al Bah, a junior majoring in international studies. “I have started to implement what I learned through my daily interactions with my friends and professors and many others, carefully understanding their way of thinking and what is the right approach to deal with their unique character. Special thank you to the Student Leadership Program for providing us with such amazing workshops that builds our character and help us understand ourselves and others in a better way.”

“The DISC workshop taught me more about myself and my personality. Due to my major, which is international studies, I have to always communicate with others, and the DISC analysis workshop helped me learn different methods of communicating with different personalities,” added Al Jawhara Al Juwaied, a freshman.

“We are glad to hear that students enjoyed learning about personalities. The DISC Analysis workshop is conducted every semester and we recommend that all students take it once during their time at AUS,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
at AUS is incomparable to any institution in the region, and we have strived over the years to prove that we still stand the best in terms of quality and quantity of student out-of-class activities."

Eight students received the Most Outstanding Active Student Award for their contributions to extracurricular activities in Academic Year 2014-2015. The awardees were:

Student Athletics and Recreation
• Shahdan Ibrahim Barakat
• Mohammad Reza M. Jafareian
• Jawwad Ahmed

Student Clubs and Organizations
• Hamad Ali Al Ketbi, Emirati Cultural Club
• Balquees Abdulwahab Basalom, Saudi Cultural Club

• Hussam Badi Uz Zaman, AUS Debating Society
• Omar Albuqaish Almutawa
• Mohammad Ramez Al Jachi

The following awards were presented for participation in AUS Global Day 2015:

Best Corner Awards
• First Place: Emirati Cultural Club
• Second Place: Palestinian Cultural Club
• Third Place: Saudi Cultural Club
• Team Work Award-Corner: Iraqi Cultural Club
• Creative Idea Award-Corner: Pakistani Cultural Club

Performance Awards
• First Place: Indian Cultural Club
• Second Place: Jordanian Cultural Club
• Third Place: Syrian Cultural Club
• Team Work Award-Performance: Nigerian Cultural Club
• Creative Idea Award-Performance: Bangladeshi Cultural Club

Club of the Year awards were given to the following:
• Ethnic Club: Emirati Cultural Club
• Interest-Oriented Club: Engineers Without Borders Club

Also present at the awards ceremony were Kevin Mitchell, AUS Interim Provost; AUS deans and other senior officials; faculty, staff and students.
Amerian University of Sharjah (AUS) students held the One Young World MENA (OYW MENA) Caucus on campus on June 15. One Young World is an annual summit that brings together the brightest young leaders from global and national companies, NGOs, universities and other progressive organizations. Following the summit in Ireland in October, the OYW MENA Caucus was organized to unify voices and interests of the MENA region, to address a variety of significant and unique challenges, and to help individuals and communities prepare for the future.

Organized by AUS’s One Young World Ambassadors Hanin Abbas, Sarah Abdelbary, Samer Khan and Mina Mazin, in collaboration with the AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP), OYW MENA was a daylong event that included speakers’ initiatives and discussions on how to jumpstart initiatives to rejuvenate communities struggling under today’s difficult economic and political conditions.

The keynote speaker at the event was Kate Robertson, the co-founder of One Young World, who shared with the students in the room her views on what a leader actually is. “It’s not the power that you hold. It’s not being CEO, or the prime minister or the president. A leader is a person who stands up and says, ‘I will make this right. I will do this thing and I will do it better. And while on the way there, I’m going to look after the people as well.’”

Robertson said that the mission of One Young World is about finding leaders. She encouraged the students to take a stand. “What are you actually doing? Are you doing something? Don’t think about it. Don’t talk about it. Don’t ask about it. Just do it!” she said.

“When you get up in the morning and look at yourself in the mirror, please remember my question to you and ask yourself, ‘Is it me? Am I that leader?’ Your lives will change when you lead, you will not be the following day the person you are today. Your lives will change beyond recognition, but I promise you they will change for the better,” concluded Robertson.

“We are proud of our OYW ambassadors for their efforts in organizing the first One Young World MENA Caucus 2015 at AUS. They proved to be creative, goal-oriented and dedicated students who paved the way for others. The One Young World MENA Caucus brought together great minds and inspired many to take their initiatives to a higher level and turn them into reality, said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

“After my life-changing One Young World experience in Dublin, I became highly driven to make a difference back home,” said AUS student ambassador Mina Mazin. “The OYW MENA Caucus aims to bring together OYW ambassadors and proactive community members to share their initiatives in one hub, in addition to panel discussions on controversial topics in this region by opinion leaders. The reason why we chose to launch this caucus is to have the MENA region’s voice more strongly heard at future OYW Summits and to encourage young leaders to take part in One Young World.”

“Being part of the organizing team for the first OYW MENA Caucus has been an exceptional experience. As a person who has attended many conferences and workshops, it was very interesting, and sometimes challenging, to see how things come together behind the scenes,” said Sarah Abdelbary. “This experience has tested many aspects of my leadership skills, including creativity, patience and team work. I always aspire to give back to my community as much as possible, and this event gave me that opportunity.”

The rest of the day included perspectives from different speakers and a panel discussion on how the MENA region culture impacts the youth generation.
Three active students from the AUS Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) participated in the Student Global Leadership Conference at Imperial College, London, United Kingdom, April 10–12, 2015. The conference explored the present and future nature of leadership in a world of inequality filled with complex and competing economic, social and environmental dynamics.

The discussion at this year’s conference, themed “Leading the Change: Social Justice in a Complex World,” aimed to educate the students that big changes usually emerge from small beginnings. Privilege, power, choices and responsibilities of leadership in the 21st century were main topics explored and analyzed in the various sessions. On the last day of the conference, students wrote out their personal action plan to reflect on their performance and achievement to plan for their educational, career or continuing personal development.

“This conference was an amazing experience, and I have gained a lot by being a part of it. It was an eye-opening opportunity. I learned a lot from the discussions about women’s empowerment and how to be a successful leader. I was impressed by how the conversation went between the attendees and the speakers. The interaction was phenomenal and quiet impressive,” said Nesma Hegazi, a senior student majoring in chemical engineering.

“Our students participated in the Student Global Leadership Conference for the first time this year, and it turned out to be an excellent experience for them. The conference touched on the basic elements of leadership and gave students the opportunity to speak about different global issues. Students got a chance to develop their personal skills and better understand the importance of effective leadership in our globalized world,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Nine active students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) participated in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) held March 29–April 2, 2015, in New York City, United States.

The NMUN is a unique platform for university students to better understand the inner workings and diplomatic systems of the United Nations. More than 2,000 university students from different parts of the world meet in the NMUN to propose resolutions pertaining to regional and international conflicts, peacekeeping troops, human rights, the status of women and children, economic and social development, and various topics regarding the environment. The NMUN is considered one of the most effective tools for teaching students the dynamics of multilateral and international relations.

AUS students represented Yemen in nine distinct committees: General Assembly, Peacekeeping Operations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Environment Program, Children’s Fund, High Commissioner for Refugees and Non-Proliferation Treaty Review.

“I was looking forward to participating in the NMUN ever since I joined AUS. The experience went beyond every expectation I had,” said Hanan Arab, a junior student majoring in international studies. “The conference was extremely educational, thought-provoking and interesting. The conference helped me by further developing my leadership and public speaking skills. I liked the level the conference was set at; it was challenging on a different scale. Also, the participants were very skilled and intellectual, which made the conference further challenging yet fun!”

“This is the fourth time our SLP students have participated in the National Model United Nations. We believe that it is an extraordinary opportunity for our students to take part in it as they gain an international MUN experience and polish their communication, debate and lobbying skills diplomatically. The closing ceremony, which is held in the headquarters of the United Nations, provides our students with a deep insight into the United Nations’ core mission, achievements and accomplishments. It helps them better understand the world and how international decisions and resolutions are made and passed,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
AUS students take part in the National Strategy Forum for Youth Empowerment

Students from the AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP) participated in the National Strategy Forum for Youth Empowerment organized by the UAE Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development on May 2, 2015 at the headquarters for the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare in Dubai, UAE. The event allowed the students from different universities and colleges in the UAE to share and discuss their ideas, concerns and suggestions all related to youth.

“This forum was very engaging and useful, as we had the chance to discuss issues such as health and financial problems, and how to come up with solutions in a creative way. In addition, one of the key speakers said that to be creative we have to come up with ideas that are new and not repeated so we can be more successful and reach our target. Also, one has to listen to other people's point of view to get to their target,” said Hessah Samahi, a junior majoring in international relations.

“The Student Leadership Program continues to involve students in meaningful opportunities that allow for information sharing and networking. Our students enjoyed the National Strategy Forum because of its unique focus on youth development through addressing pressing issues facing our youth,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

SLP students take part in the UAE Youth Ambassador Program

Nine students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah are taking part in the UAE Youth Ambassador Program (UYAP) 2015. The six-month program, from February to August 2015, will have students visit Korea, China and Germany in the summer.

The UAE Youth Ambassadors Program prepares Emirati youth to take significant roles in strategic sectors and strengthens engagement with other strategic partners of the UAE. The program also provides students with an opportunity to explore language and culture and learn about government and the private sector. Students are currently taking classes three times a week to learn the language and culture of the country they plan to visit in the summer.

“My participation in the UAE Youth Ambassadors Program is a great opportunity. I will be visiting China, and thus far we have been taking classes to learn Chinese so we can put it into practice when we go there,” said Fatima Al Shamsi, a sophomore student majoring in visual communication. “Also, in order to promote cultural exchange, we have been briefed not only about the language, but the culture of China itself. This is a great opportunity for young Emirati students and a step towards shaping our personalities.”

“I look forward to representing my country in Germany with the Youth Ambassador Program. I would like to thank the Court of the Crown Prince for bringing such a fantastic opportunity to the youth. So far it is a very empowering experience,” added Omar Al Mutawa, a junior student majoring in international studies.

“I am proud of the fact that AUS students were chosen among many others to represent the UAE in this prestigious program. They are now learning a foreign language that they will soon get to practice. We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing their feedback upon their return,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
In the men’s categories, the AUS volleyball team won the runner’s up trophy and the soccer players settled with fourth place. Ahmed Khaled Abdelhadi of AUS was dubbed the Individual Champion of the Med-Saharan Sports Challenge 2015 in table tennis.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, accompanied the contingent along with Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department and five coaches. Dr. Al Shehhi congratulated all the winners and advised the team members to renew their goals in sports while maintaining a proper balance with their academic pursuits.

The Med-Saharan Sports Challenge is an annual meeting of university student-athletes from Europe, Africa, North America and the Middle East.
Winners of this year’s men’s and women’s intramural and interschool tournaments were recognized at AUS Sports Day on April 29. More than 400 students from across the university participated in the tournaments, which included intramural competitions in swimming, fitness, table tennis, tennis, badminton, squash and chess, and interschool competitions in basketball, volleyball, soccer and cricket.

Sports Day was organized by the Student Athletics and Recreation Department of the Office of Student Affairs.

In women’s basketball, the College of Arts and Science (CAS) came first followed by the School of Business Administration (SBA) and the College of Architecture, Art and Design (CAAD) while in volleyball SBA placed first, the College of Engineering (CEN) placed second, followed by CAS.

SBA, CEN and CAS placed first, second and third respectively in men’s basketball while SBA, CAS and CEN bagged the first three positions in men’s volleyball. CAS took first place in soccer with SBA in second place and CEN achieving third. CEN won the cricket trophy and CAS placed second.

Games were conducted in front of the Sports Complex to mark the occasion and the students eagerly participated in various events. AUS Chancellor Dr. Björn Kjerfve, along with Interim Provost Kevin Mitchell and the Dean of Students Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, distributed the trophies and medals to all winners in the presence of Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department, and Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organization.

Dr. Al Shehhi congratulated the AUS athletes on their various regional and international achievements during the year and stressed the importance of balancing academics with the extracurricular activities.
Leopards overall winners at AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament

The AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament witnessed exciting action from 26 men’s and 15 women’s teams from nine UAE universities in tennis, table tennis, squash and badminton from March 22 to 25, 2015.

While badminton, table tennis and tennis competitions were conducted for both men and women, the squash tournament was for men only. In the men’s categories, the AUS Leopards placed first in squash and tennis and second in badminton and table tennis. The AUS women won the tennis tournament and placed second in table tennis and badminton.

Participating teams included Ajman University of Science and Technology, BITS-Pilani Dubai, Canadian University of Dubai, City University College of Ajman, Emirates Aviation University, Manipal University, Skyline University College and University of Sharjah, along with AUS. The tournament was organized by the Student Athletics and Recreation Department.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, expressed her gratitude to all the universities that participated in this annual event. She also congratulated AUS men’s and women’s racket teams for their achievements.

The closing ceremony and prize distribution were held on March 25, and trophies and medals were awarded to the winners.

AUS wins overall championship at HESF Sports Tournament

American University of Sharjah athletes were named the overall winners in the male and female categories of various sports tournaments organized throughout 2014–15 academic year by the Higher Education Sports Federation (HESF) of the UAE.

AUS entered the HESF scene this year with 16 men and women’s teams in various disciplines and became winners in men’s tennis, squash, badminton, powerlifting and taekwondo (under 58 kg). The women’s teams secured first place in basketball, table tennis (individual), badminton and swimming.

The AUS men’s teams were runners up in basketball, swimming, chess and table tennis while women won second place in volleyball and table tennis (team and individual category). Further, the third place in the men’s table tennis individual category was also won by AUS.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the AUS athletes and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

“AUS is proud of you for this great achievement and all budding athletes will be motivated by your success.”
Echoes reflects student opinions about the services offered by the Office of Student Affairs. The section provides an opportunity for students to express their views and experiences with student extracurricular activities at AUS.

**Aaliah Al Aifan, Senior, Management**
First I would like to thank OSA for the hard work they did in making the South Korea trip a great one. It was such an amazing trip with the most amazing people ever. I felt like we were one big family. I learned a lot about South Korea and its culture, and had so much fun at the same time. I seriously encourage students to get involved with OSA because these are the things we will remember later on.

**Behrooz Arjomandi, Junior, MIS**
I initially embarked on the journey to South Korea knowing no one. However, I made new friends and learned about the culture and heritage of a country I had been yearning to know about. I would like to thank AUS, OSA, and all other parties involved in giving me the opportunity to undergo this pleasant experience.

**Nariman Elnaggar, Freshman, Interior Design**
The trip to South Korea was definitely a memorable one. There is so much about the Korean culture that I have learned.

**Abdul Ghani Soucar, Sophomore, Civil Engineering**
National Model United Nations (NMUN) and student leadership go great together. NMUN teaches participating students how to engage with others in a professional setting and communicate with them to achieve their goals. Moreover, NMUN teaches students about the United Nations, its policies, its mission and its functions. This means that the student does not only get to learn how to professionally communicate, but he/she also learns how to be a diplomat.

**Kartik Gandhi, Finance, Junior**
National Model United Nations (NMUN) 2015 was a great experience. It helped me better understand international politics and diplomacy. Participating in NMUN also enhanced my leadership and networking skills. The trip to the UN headquarters was fascinating, and as an international studies student, I could truly appreciate the essence of the United Nations.

**Ahmed Hussein, Senior, Electrical Engineering**
I would like to thank AUS and the Office of Student Affairs for giving me the opportunity to travel to Morocco and to participate in the Med-Saharan Sports Tournament. It was such a wonderful experience. We also got introduced to the rich Moroccan culture and their traditional food. Even though our coach wasn’t able to come with us, we still performed our best and were able to achieve the second place in the men’s volleyball competition.

**Faizan Rahim, Junior, Civil Engineering**
The Durham CCC University Cricket Tournament in Newcastle, UK, was a great experience for the AUS Cricket Team. Our team adapted to the diverse environment and playing conditions quickly. AUS cricketers enjoyed the tour and benefited a lot from this international tournament. We are extremely thankful to the athletics department and the AUS authorities for providing us with such an opportunity to visit and play in the international arena.

**Taher Arafa, Sophomore, Civil Engineering**
AUS men’s swimmers have shown an outstanding performance in the HESF competitions throughout the past years and won the first place on many different occasions. During the last event of the HESF swimming competition 2014-2015, the AUS team competed against eight prominent universities in the region with highly skilled swimmers. I am glad that our contributions to this competition have enhanced our experience and added up to the total medal tally of AUS for being the overall winner of the HESF 2014-2015 sports tournaments.
A 16-member cricket team from AUS participated in the Durham CCC University Cricket tournament in Newcastle, UK, from May 6 to 10, 2015. Two T20 matches were played in the Durham County Cricket Ground against Durham University. AUS and Durham University shared the trophy with a 1-1 win each. Mohammed Umar and Faizan Aqeel Rahim of AUS were selected as the best batsman and best bowler of the tournament, respectively.

A 30-over exhibition match also was played in the Middlesbrough Cricket Club ground between the AUS Leopards and a combined team of Middlesbrough Club and Teesside University on May 8. The match was originally scheduled as a 40-over game but was reduced to 30 overs due to the bad climatic conditions. AUS cricketers fell short of the target set by the club team batsmen.

The tour enabled the AUS cricketers to compete in diverse climatic conditions. The men displayed good teamwork, fine batting and disciplined bowling throughout the series. Faizan Aqeel Rahim took four wickets in the first T20 match against Durham University and was declared Man of the Match.

Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department, accompanied the team as the head of the delegation along with the coach, VC James.

A city tour was arranged to Edinburgh, Scotland, on May 9 by the organizers, and the team was able to visit some historic sites.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the team for the successful tour and said, “Athletic competitions with such renowned universities overseas will open gates to cooperate with them in exchanging ideas, cultural interaction and exchange of knowledge in diverse fronts.”